for expension of capacity and foreign collaboration for manufacture of colour picture tubes was not accepted by the Government of India. M|s. APEDC represented against the decision of the Government. Meanwhile the proposed collaborator of M|s. APEDC namely, M/s. Philips, Holland have withdrawn their offer of collaboration with M/s. APEDC and terminated all its past arrangements for technology transfer for manufacture of colour picture tubes. M/s. APEDC's application for approval of capital goods for Colour Picture Tubes project was not considered in view of non-settlement of foreign collaboration for technical know-how.

Site for Establishment of Instrumented Missile Test Range at Baliapal

2549. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the report of the Committee appointed by Government to find a suitable site for establishment of instrumented Missile Test Range for testing rockets and missile;

(b) whethtr it is a fact that during the Janta regime, BALIAPAL in Orissa was selected as the best site for the purpose;

(c) whether any othr sites were being taken into consideration at that point of time; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) The Committee recommended Baliapal on Balasore coast in Orissa as the site for setting up the National Range facility after a through study of the various sites.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Various sites considered for setting up of National Range were SUNDERBAN in West Bengal, Balasoe coastal area (Baliapal) in Orissa, SATBHAYA in district Cuttack, Orissa, SURYALANKA/BAPATLA, area near SHAR Centre in Andhra Pradesh, KANYAKUMARI areas, DWARKA in Gujarat, DESERT areas in Rajasthan, ANDAMAN & NICOBAR and LAKSHADWEEP Islands.

Opposition of Agni Launch by the Opposition Leaders in Orissa

2550. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some opposition leaders of Orissa had opposed the AGNI launched from the Interim Test Range at Chandipur in Orissa, believing AGNI be a nuclear weapon system;

(b) if so, the details thereof and what is the exact nature of their complaint; and

(c) what are the civil uses apart from the defence uses, which will benefit the people in general from this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) and (b) Opposition leaders had been agitating and pleading against the launching of AGNI mainly on grounds of human safety, environmental pollution, effect on ecology, emission of semi poisonous gases, and above all the fear of unknown. Doubts had also been expressed regarding the deterrent effect on AGNI if it was not to carry a nuclear war-head.

(c) The civilian space and the defence missile programmes are progressing under two separate departments with objectives set for each. There may be some spin offs from the technologies proved under the missile programme for civil applications and the benefit of general public.